are alternative raw-materials for manufacture of Polyester. PTA is a later entrant and stoichometrically more DMT is required that PTA for one tonne Polyester.

(b) The requirement of DMT and PTA depends on the users who would assess their needs based on the various factors like existing equipments additional facilities required etc. Government's policy would be to meet the demands of both DMT and PTA to the extent these items are required by the user-industry.

Consequences of stoppage of R.M.S. sorting

1198. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the stoppage of sorting by R.M.S. the delivery of letters from Patna to Calcutta which used to take two days earlier now takes five days and ten days for the neighbouring areas like Asansol and Burdwan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of this inordinate delay private dak agencies are emerging fast; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Long term plan for export by Public Sector Units

1199. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the public sector units to draw up a long term plan for export by public sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of the public sector thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (c) With a view to broad-basing of their operations and to play a bigger role in the export effort of the country, the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Department of Public Enterprises had been asked to draw up long term export plans. The PSUs. have since drawn up their tentative long term export plans.

Closing down of non-viable public sector undertakings

1200. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to close down non-viable public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TIWARI): (a) No decision has been taken to close down non-viable public sector undertakings.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in the number of sick Industrial Units

1201. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the number of sick industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of (i) small scale; (ii) medium scale and (iii)

large scale industrial units which have fallen sick as at the end of the year 1984 and 1985; and

(c) what is the amount of bank credit locked up in each category of industries mentioned above during the periods mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. The details regarding the total number of sick industrial units and the amount outstanding against them as at the end of December, 1984 and June, 1985 are given hereunder:—

(Rs. crores)

	No. of Units	Amount outstanding
Period ending December, 1984 :		
Large units	545	2330·12
Medium units	1287	428·58
SSI units	91450	879·69
TOTAL :	93282	3638.39
Period ending June 1985 :		
Large units	597	2655.39
Medium units	1181	195·13
SSI units	97890	954.65
TOTAL	99668	3805·17

The statistics have been obtained from the latest report of the Reserve Bank of India.

Private Postal Agencies

1202. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 42 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 1986 and state:

(a) what is the number of cities, state-wise where private postal and courier agencies are operating;

(b) what are the details regarding their performance popularity and rates charged by them;

(c) whether this operation is legal and in accord with the declared Government Policy; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Such agencies are reported to be operating in 32 cities in the country. The State-wise information is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Not known.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Carrying of letters by the private agencies constitutes a violation of Section 4 of Indian Post Offices Act. Whenever infringement of the above Section comes to notice, necessary action is taken under the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act.

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